

Part III: Health and Health Behavior

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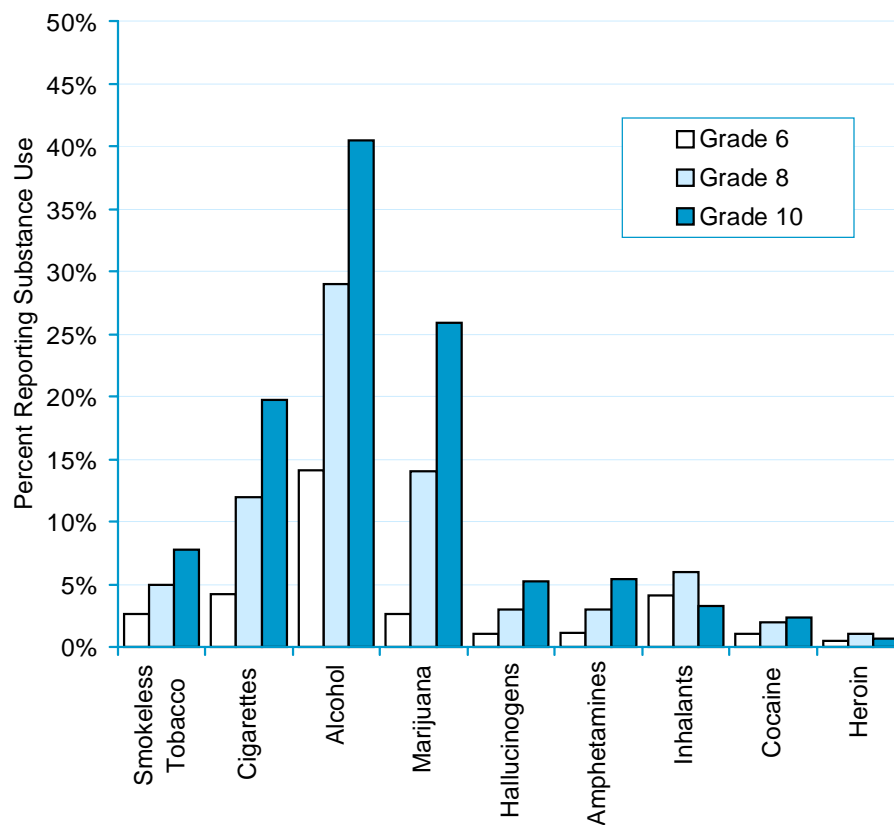
Substance Use

What is the overall pattern of recent substance use in King County and Washington State?

Alcohol, marijuana and cigarettes are the most popular substances used locally (this page) and statewide (opposite page) by the time youth have reached 10th grade. Alcohol is used by as many as 14% of 6th grade, 29% of 8th grade, and 41% of 10th grade students. By 10th grade, one out of four students have used marijuana in the last 30 days locally and statewide.

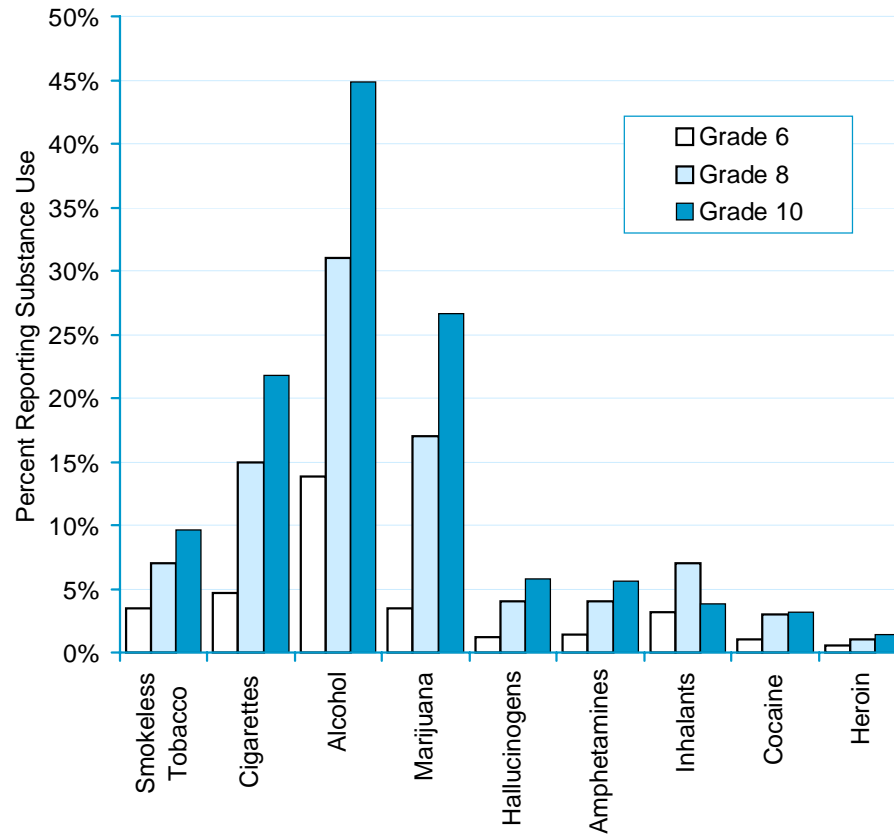
Data Notes: In 1998, the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior was carried out with a representative sample for Washington State. Many King County schools that were not drawn into the state sample carried out the same survey, resulting in a local King County sample that may or may not be representative of the actual student population. Local results are from 6th, 8th and 10th graders in 68 schools in 11 of King County's 19 school districts, including: Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Lake Washington, Renton, Riverview, Seattle (one middle school), Shoreline, Snoqualmie Valley, Tahoma, and Vashon Island. Approximately 3,400 6th grade, 2,900 8th grade and 2,300 10th grade students participated.

Percent of Public School Students Who Reported Substance Use in Last 30 Days, By Grade, Select King County Schools, 1998



Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior, 1998.

Percent of Public School Students Who Reported
Substance Use in Last 30 Days, By Grade, Washington, 1998



"Once I got out of drug treatment, I lost all trust and responsibility. Now, I'm gaining it back by doing what I say I'm gonna do, being where I say I'm gonna be."

(Middle school female quoted in *Supporting Youth*)

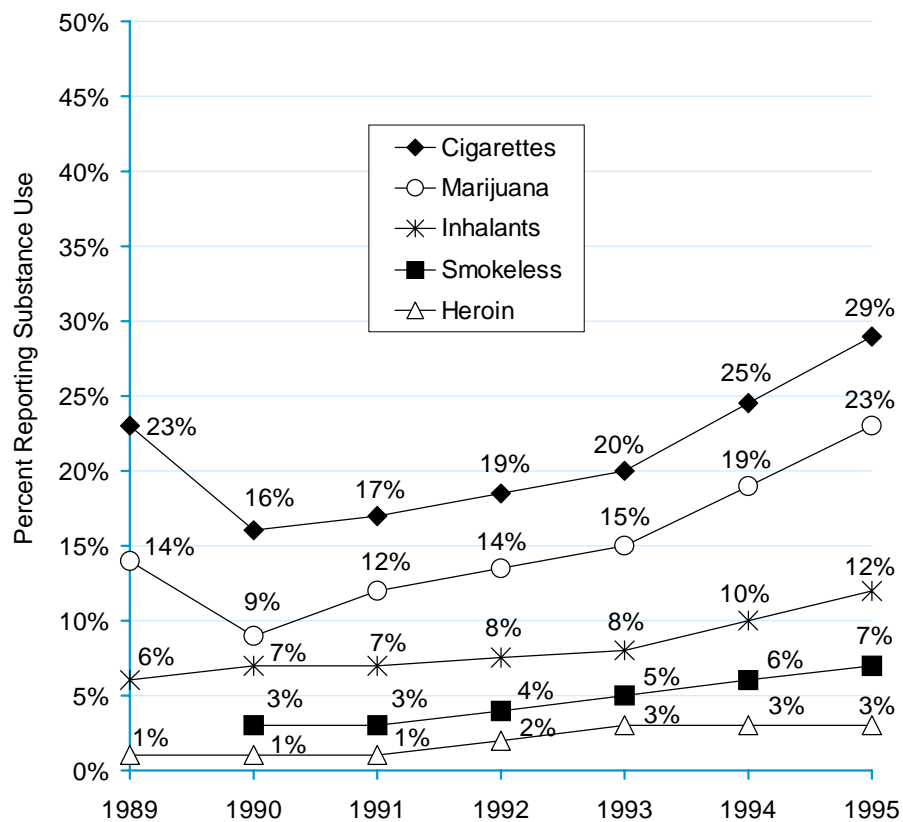
Substance Use

What is the pattern of substance use among Seattle 8th graders up through 1995?

There has been a clear upward trend for use of all five substances among 8th grade students in Seattle through 1995. Approximately one out of every four 8th graders were using cigarettes and/or marijuana. Data from the 1999 Seattle Teen Survey will be available in year 2000 and will indicate if this upward trend continues.

Source: Seattle Public Schools Teen Health Risk Survey, 1995.

Percent of Seattle Public School 8th Grade Students Who Reported Substance Use in the Last 30 Days, 1989-1995



Substance Use

Statewide, are more youth using alcohol and drugs now, compared to earlier years?

Among 10th and 12th grade students statewide, there is a consistent increase in recent use of cigarettes and marijuana since 1990. Marijuana use has increased between 1990 and 1998 in all grades.

Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior, 1998.

Percent of Washington State Public School Students Who Reported Using Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs in the Past 30 Days, 1990-1998

Substance	1990	1992	1995	1998	Change '95-'98
Alcohol					
Grade 6	12%	13%	12%	14%	2%
Grade 8	29%	24%	30%	31%	1%
Grade 10	44%	40%	37%	45%	8%
Grade 12	52%	52%	45%	52%	7%
Tobacco (Smoking)					
Grade 6	2%	3%	4%	5%	0%
Grade 8	12%	10%	19%	15%	- 4%
Grade 10	16%	17%	21%	22%	1%
Grade 12	21%	22%	24%	29%	5%
Marijuana					
Grade 6	1%	1%	3%	3%	0%
Grade 8	8%	6%	16%	17%	0%
Grade 10	11%	13%	23%	27%	4%
Grade 12	16%	17%	23%	29%	5%
Cocaine					
Grade 6	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Grade 8	3%	2%	4%	3%	- 1%
Grade 10	2%	2%	3%	3%	0%
Grade 12	3%	2%	2%	3%	1%

Substance Use

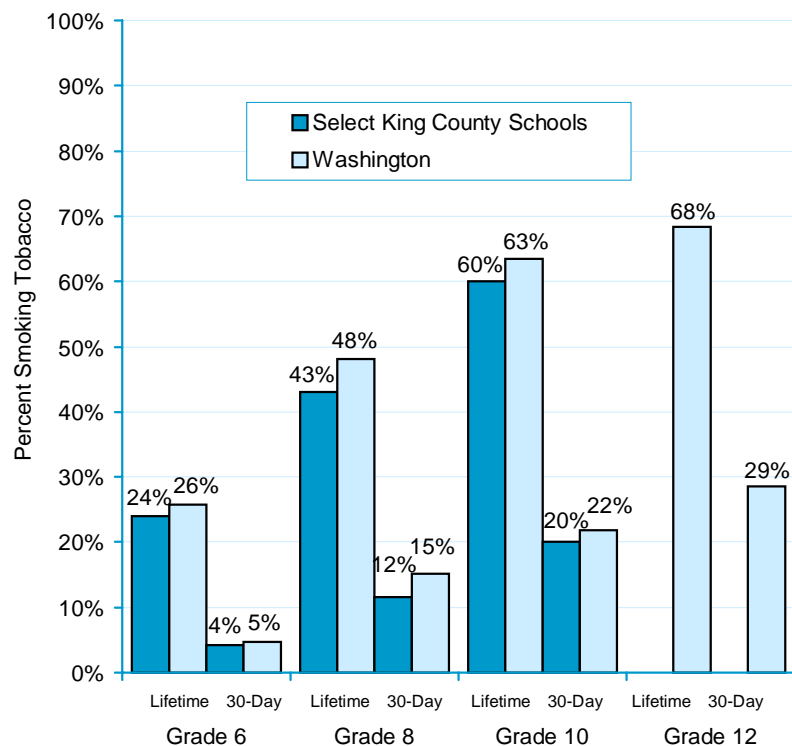
How many of our youth are smoking tobacco?

The percentage of youth smoking tobacco increases by each grade in school, both locally in King County and in Washington State. Only 4% of King County 6th graders smoked tobacco in the past month while 20% of King County 10th graders did so.

In 1998, 20% of King County adults were current smokers.

Data Notes: In 1998, the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior was carried out with a representative sample for Washington State. Many King County schools that were not drawn into the state sample carried out the same survey, resulting in a local King County sample that may or may not be representative of the actual student population. Local results are from 6th, 8th and 10th graders in 68 schools in 11 of King County's 19 school districts, including: Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Lake Washington, Renton, Riverview, Seattle (one middle school), Shoreline, Snoqualmie Valley, Tahoma, and Vashon Island. Approximately 3,400 6th grade, 2,900 8th grade and 2,300 10th grade students participated.

Percent of Public School Students Who Reported Smoking Tobacco By Grade, Select King County Schools and Washington, 1998



Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior, 1998, and the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 1997.

Substance Use

How many of our youth are drinking alcohol?

Use of alcohol also increases by each grade in school, both locally in King County and in Washington State. A similar trend by age is seen for the percentage of youth who report binge drinking sometime in the last two weeks, that is consuming five or more drinks at one sitting.

From 8th grade onward, between one-third to one-half of the students have consumed alcohol in the last 30 days. Among 8th, 10th and 12th grade students, between 18% to 33% have engaged in binge drinking in the past two weeks.

In 1997, 2% of King County adults were chronic alcohol drinkers and 13% had engaged in binge drinking at least once during the previous month.

Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior, 1998, and the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 1997.

Percent of Public School Students Who Reported Drinking Alcohol By Grade, Select King County Schools and Washington, 1998

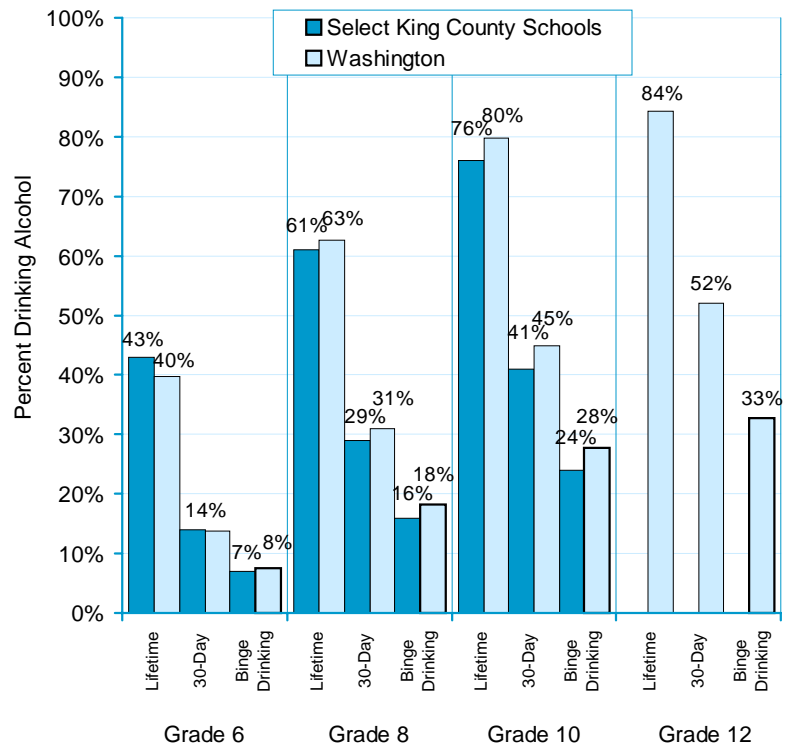




Photo: Megan

Substance Use

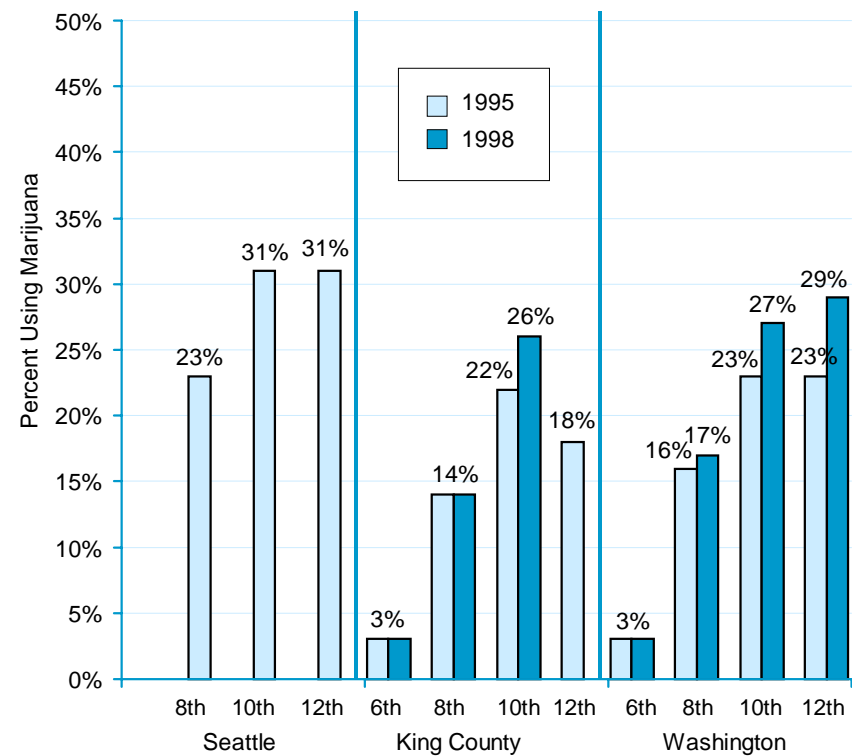
How many youth were using marijuana in 1995 and 1998?

Locally and statewide, current marijuana use among 10th and 12th grade students rose between 1995 and 1998. Over one out of four 10th graders in King County and Washington State in 1998 said they had used marijuana in the last 30 days. While no 1998 data for Seattle were available, 1995 data show that Seattle students were more likely than other King County students to use marijuana in the past month.

Data Notes: The King County schools participating in the 1998 survey were not the same as those in 1995. Four King County school districts participated in 1995, while in 1998, select schools in 11 districts participated. These data are not necessarily representative of King County's student population for either year.

Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior, 1995 and 1998, and the Seattle Public Schools Teen Health Risk Survey, 1995.

Percent of Public School Students Who Reported Using Marijuana in Last 30 Days By Grade
Seattle, Select King County Schools and Washington, 1995 & 1998



Mental Health

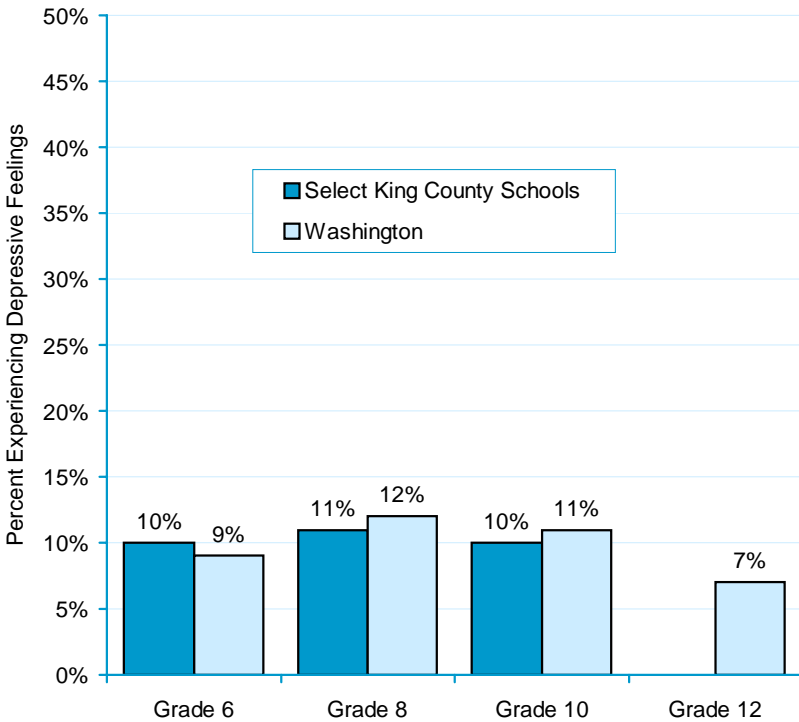
What percent of our youth have symptoms of depression?

In 1998 about one out of every ten students locally and statewide reported feeling depressed.

Data Notes: The Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior contained four items related to depression for the first time in 1998: "feeling like life is not worth it", "thinking of one's self as no good", "thinking of one's self as a failure", and "feeling depressed on most days during the past year". While these items are not sufficient to diagnose depression, they do provide a sense of the extent to which students experience some depressive feelings. These items were combined to form a single indicator of depression by averaging the responses to the four items on a scale from 0 to 3; students who had a score greater than 2 on this scale were considered to experience depressive feelings as measured by this scale.

Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors, 1998.

Percent of Public School Students Who Reported Experiencing Depressive Feelings, Select King County Schools and Washington, 1998



Mental Health

What percentage of Seattle, Bellevue, and Mercer Island youth are feeling depressed?

In a different survey, about one in five Seattle youth, one in seven Bellevue youth, and one in ten Mercer Island youth indicated recent feelings of sadness or depression. Females were more at risk than males in all three communities and Seattle females were most at risk.

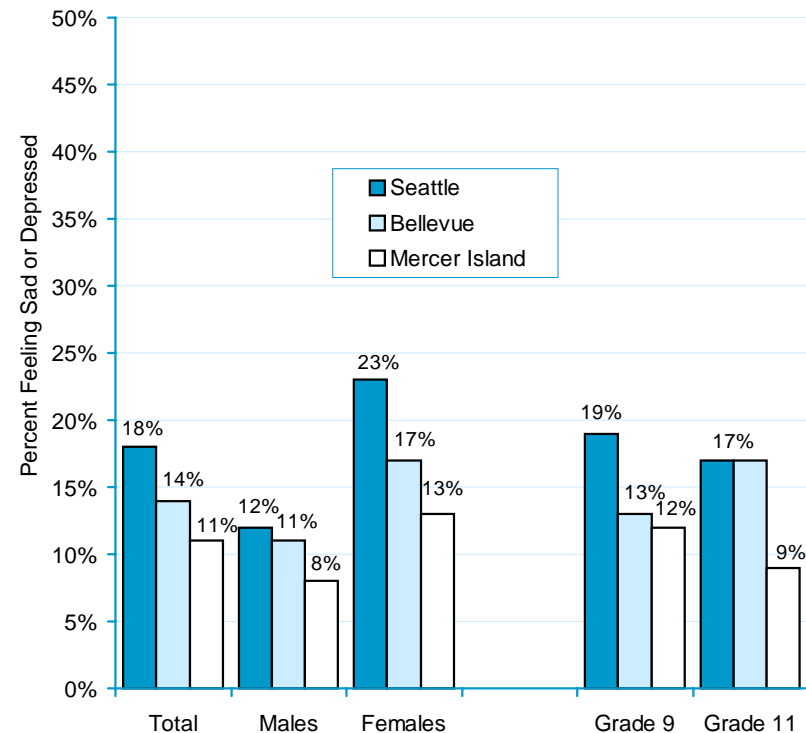
Data Notes: Seattle, Bellevue and Mercer Island were the only King County school districts to carry out this survey. The survey question was, "How often did you feel sad or depressed during the past month?"

Source: *Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth for Seattle, Bellevue, and Mercer Island School Districts, 1997.*

"I think that there's like teen clinics, where they were talking about counseling. I think that you can't really go to counselors at your school, 'cause they tell your parents. and that's a big thing ... There's got to be like maybe more community counselors that are open for kids to come in and talk."

(Middle school male quoted in *Supporting Youth*)

Percent of Public High School Students Who Reported Feeling Sad or Depressed All or Most of the Time During the Past Month
Seattle, Bellevue, and Mercer Island, 1996-1997



Mental Health

What percent of our youth think about and attempt suicide?

Among 8th graders, about one student out of five considered suicide in the previous year, while only one out of 10 attempted suicide. Students at the 8th grade level were more than twice as likely to attempt suicide compared to 12th grade students (not shown).

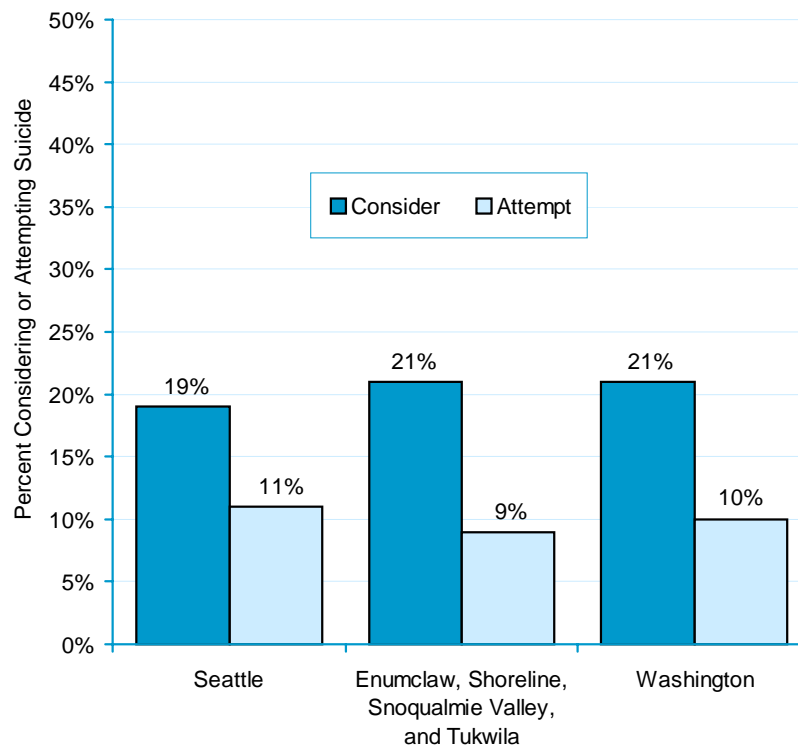
Data Notes: Only four King County school districts outside of Seattle participated in the 1995 survey.

Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior, 1995, and the Seattle Public Schools Teen Health Risk Survey, 1995.

"There was one kid who was gonna commit suicide ... but it was because of those teachers that he's still alive today. They got the right words at the right time!"

(High school male quoted in *Supporting Youth*)

Percent of Public School Grade 8 Students Who Reported Seriously Considering or Attempting Suicide in Past Year
Seattle, Four King County School Districts, and Washington, 1995



Mental Health

Do more female youth attempt suicide than male youth?

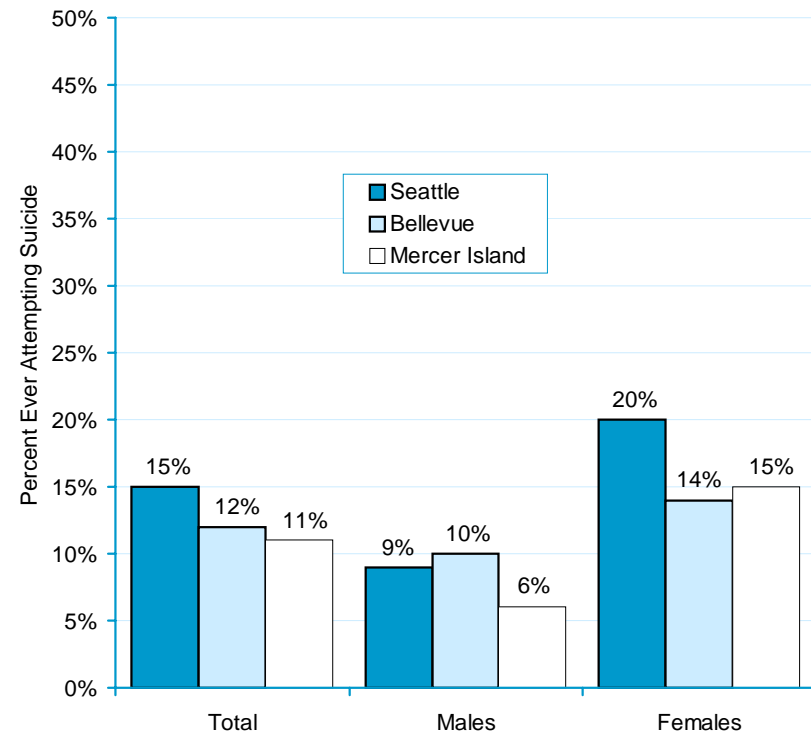
One in five Seattle females has tried to commit suicide. Among Seattle and Mercer Island students, twice as many females as males report that they have attempted suicide sometime in their lives.

Source: *Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth for Seattle, Bellevue, and Mercer Island School Districts, 1997.*

"I think a really good place to talk about stuff is also counselors ... I had a problem with suicide for a long time, a couple of years ... it was really hard to do it by myself ... but I got myself back. My counselors and my friends made me feel like I was something ... I finally got my self-esteem back this year and that was because of my counselors ... It's a hard thing. But I think that we need more places to go to be able to talk, just to counselors and friends. Yeah."

(High school male quoted in *Supporting Youth*)

Percent of Public High School Students Who Reported Ever Attempting Suicide
Seattle, Bellevue, and Mercer Island, 1996-1997



Personal Safety

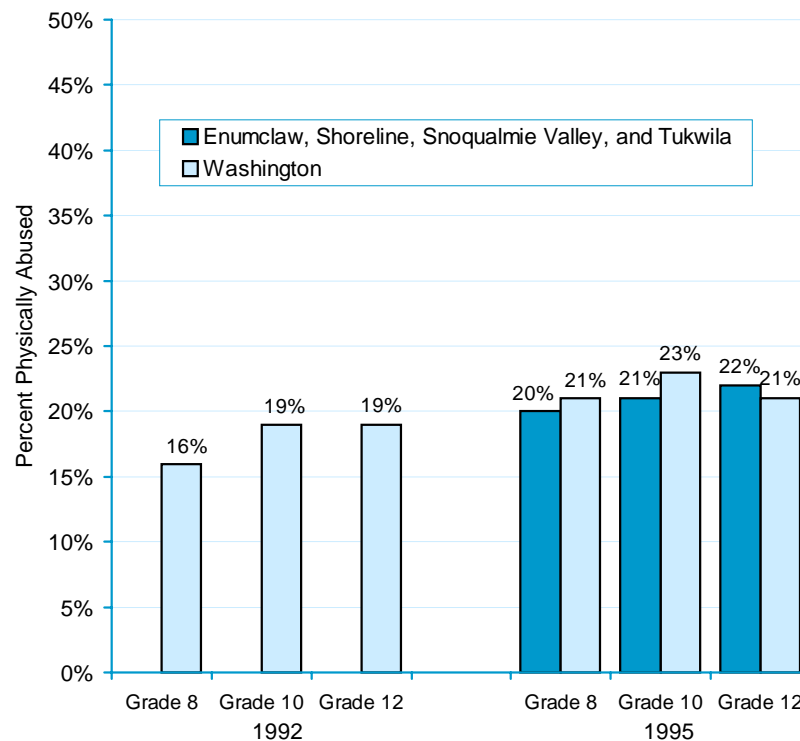
What percent of youth report being physically abused?

In 1995 about one student in five said that they had been physically abused or mistreated by an adult.

Data Notes: The survey question was, "Have you ever been physically abused or mistreated by an adult?"

Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors, 1992 & 1995, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Department of Health.

Percent of Public High School Students Who Reported Ever Being Physically Abused, By Grade
Four King County School Districts and Washington, 1992 & 1995



Personal Safety

How many children and youth in King County are being accepted by Child Protective Services for investigation?

Countywide, the percentage of the population of children and youth that has been accepted by the Child Protective Services for further investigation has remained constant between 1993 and 1998, at 3%. In Seattle, this rate dropped from 7% in 1993 to 5% in 1998.

Data Notes: The total number does not include the few referrals for which age is not known or where the age is 18 or above. The referrals reported here include some duplication; some children are reported and accepted for investigation more than once in a year, so there are more referrals than victims.

"Accepted" by Children's Protective Services (CPS) does not mean abuse or neglect has been substantiated, but that the case was screened and according to legal guidelines and found to warrant further investigation. CPS is legally bound to determine if a child is at continued risk for neglect or abuse. King County (Region IV) CPS staff report that roughly 50% of accepted referrals are ranked as low or moderately low risk.

Source: Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Children and Family Services Information Systems.

Number of Children and Youth Accepted by Child Protective Services for Investigation, King County, 1993-1998

	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13-17	Total Age 0-17	Percent of Population Age 0-17
1993	5,968	5,311	1,784	13,063	3%
1994	6,000	5,326	1,943	13,269	3%
1995	5,753	4,654	1,704	12,111	3%
1996	5,472	4,790	1,853	12,115	3%
1997	5,665	5,390	2,042	13,097	3%
1998	4,961	5,248	2,050	12,259	3%

Number of Children and Youth Accepted by Child Protective Services for Investigation, Seattle, 1993-1998

	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13-17	Total Age 0-17	Percent of Population Age 0-17
1993	2,957	2,554	911	6,422	7%
1994	3,074	2,650	961	6,685	7%
1995	2,983	2,324	913	6,220	6%
1996	2,721	2,401	925	6,047	6%
1997	2,347	2,203	780	5,330	5%
1998	2,030	2,131	860	5,021	5%

Personal Safety

What percent of youth have experienced unwanted sexual touching?

About one out of every seven youth in the four King County school districts said they had ever been forced into some form of sexual touching.

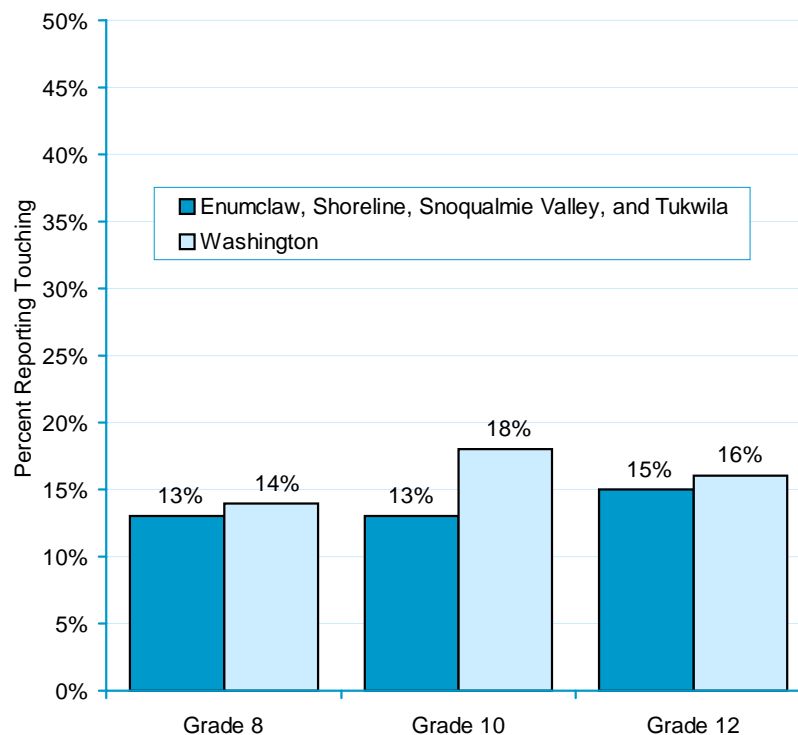
Data Notes: Only four King County school districts outside of Seattle participated in the 1995 survey. The survey question was, "Has anyone ever touched you in a sexual place or made you touch them when you did not want them to?"

Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior, 1995.

"Some of the boys in my school, they're not like abusive, but they're like ... when they ask us, 'Will you go out with me?' if you say 'No,' or 'I'll think about it.' You don't say no to them. 'Cause they'll like, they won't hit you, but they'll pin you to a corner..."

(Middle school female quoted in *Supporting Youth*)

Percent of Public School Students Who Reported Unwanted Sexual Touching, By Grade
Four King County School Districts and Washington, 1995



Personal Safety

How many of our youth have ever been forced into sexual intercourse?

In Seattle, 10 percent of high school 9th graders have been forced to have sexual intercourse. Overall, twice as many Seattle female students reported forced intercourse than male students. Both local and state data (not shown) indicate that over 13 percent of 8th grade youth have had sexual contact that they did not want.

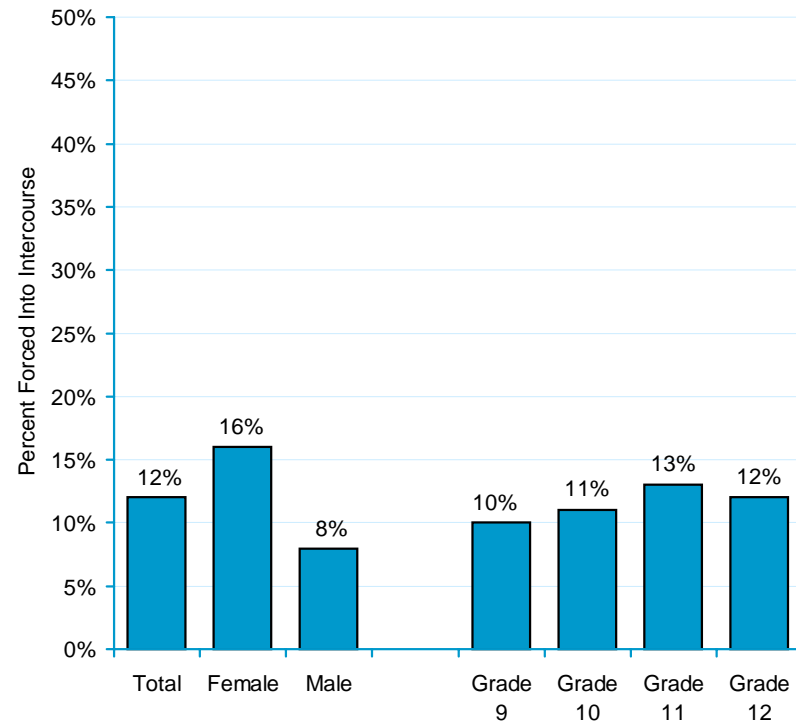
Data Notes: The survey question was, "Did anyone ever force you to have sexual intercourse when you really didn't want to?"

Source: Seattle Public Schools Teen Health Risk Survey, 1995.

"In our high school, a lot of the older guys take advantage of the freshman girls ... in sexual ways."

(Middle school female quoted in *Supporting Youth*)

Percent of Seattle Public High School Students Who Reported Being Forced to Have Sexual Intercourse, By Gender and Grade, 1995



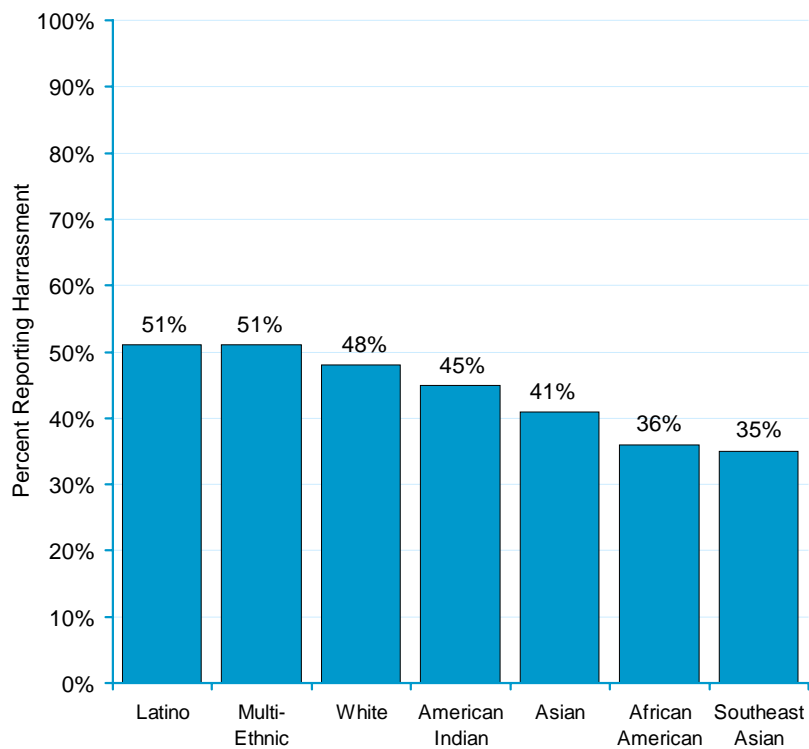
Personal Safety

How many of our youth experience offensive racial comments or attacks?

In Seattle high schools, Latino and Multiethnic students were most likely to report racial harassment, and Southeast Asian and African American students least likely. Racial harassment is even more common among 8th grade students (not shown).

Source: *Seattle Public Schools Teen Health Risk Survey, 1995.*

Percent of Seattle Public School Students Who Reported Being Racially Harrassed At School or On Way To or From School Grades 9-12, By Ethnicity, 1995



Personal Safety

How many of our youth are experiencing sexual harassment?

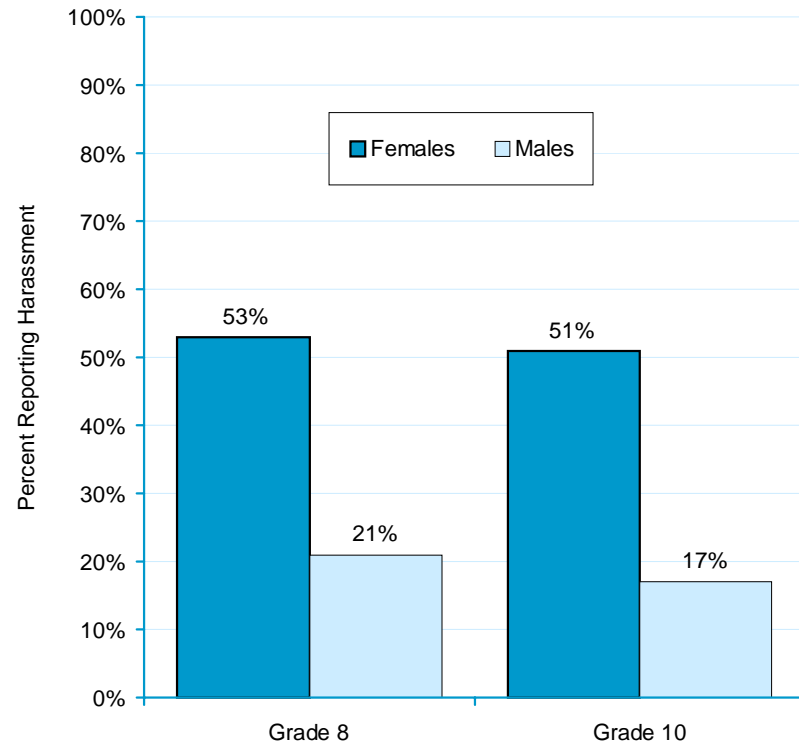
Seattle students were asked if they had been the target of offensive sexual comments at school or on their way to or from school. Over half of females reported this type of harassment. Females in grade 10 were three times as likely as males to report sexual harassment.

Source: *Seattle Public Schools Teen Health Risk Survey, 1995.*

"I think guys should take a class on respecting women -- I really do. This needs to be a mandatory class."

(High school male quoted in *Supporting Youth*)

Percent of Seattle Public School Students Who Reported Being Sexually Harassed At School or On Way To or From School By Gender, 1995



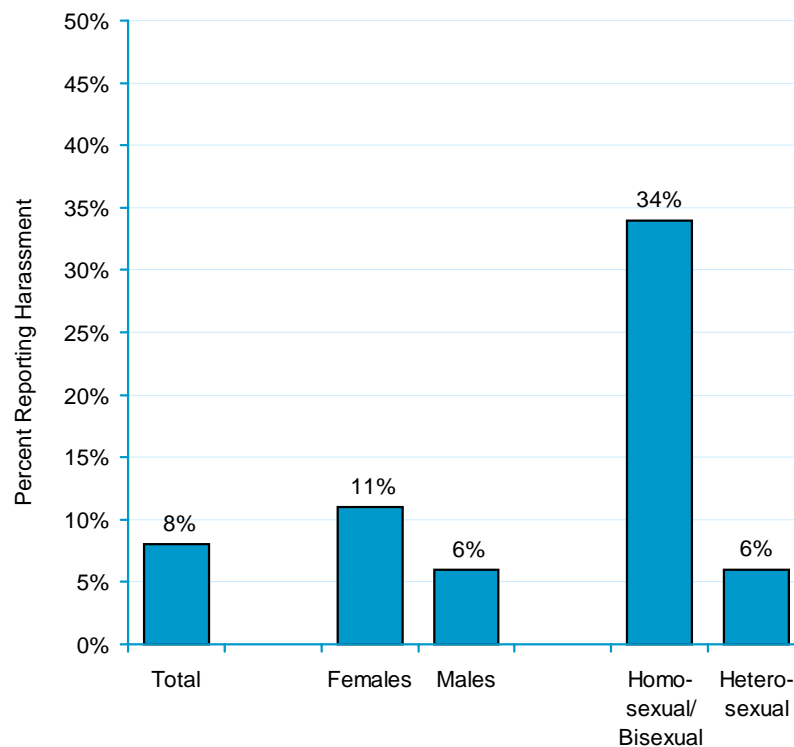
Personal Safety

How many of our youth are experiencing offensive comments or attacks based on their perceived sexual orientation?

About 8 percent of Seattle high school students reported that they had been harassed due to their perceived sexual orientation. More females than males reported being the target of this type of harassment. Among the students who considered themselves bisexual or homosexual, one out of every three said they had been harassed; among heterosexual students, 6 percent reported being harassed.

Source: *Seattle Public Schools Teen Health Risk Survey, 1995.*

Percent of Seattle Public High School Students Who Reported Being Harassed Due to Perceived Sexual Orientation At School or On Way To or From School, 1995



Personal Safety

What do we know about anti-gay harassment and violence in schools?

The Safe Schools Coalition is a public-private partnership of 81 offices, agencies and organizations as well as many individuals. Its mission is "to help make Washington State schools safe places where every family can belong, where every educator can teach, and where every child can learn, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation."

The Safe Schools Project was a five-year, statewide qualitative study examining the phenomenon of anti-gay harassment and violence in schools, kindergarten through grade twelve. All the incidents and patterns of harassment summarized here occurred at school or partly on school property, or on the way to or from school, or at a school-sponsored event, such as a field trip or a basketball game. Over a period of five school years, 146 incidents were reported to the Project and 111 met the Project's criteria as examples of school-based anti-gay harassment and violence.

Source: They Don't Even Know Me: A Report on the Five Year Anti-Violence Research Project of the Safe Schools Coalition of Washington State, January 1999.

Findings

The hundred and eleven incidents came from:

- ◆ at least 73 schools, including seven elementary schools, fifteen junior high and middle schools, forty high schools, and eleven other schools (alternative schools, a reservation school, a private school).
- ◆ at least 37 public school districts (urban, suburban, small town and rural).
- ◆ 13 counties.

The incidents included:

- ◆ eleven in which no specific individual was targeted (e.g., anti-gay slurs, sometimes expressed by teachers).
- ◆ one hundred others, in which a total of 148 individuals were harassed or attacked, including:
 - ◆ eight incidents in which all of the targeted people were adults.
 - ◆ ninety-two incidents in which students were harassed or attacked ... in seven cases, by adults. (In eighteen other cases, adults were not the offenders per se, but they did something that actively contributed to a student's feeling harmed. For example, one principal made a young lesbian start changing for PE by herself, away from the locker room, after her classmates began verbally harassing her.)

Adults responded in various ways to these ninety-two incidents in which students were targeted:

- ◆ In one-third of incidents, adults did nothing. In ten of these cases, at least one adult was supportive, but none took protective action. In the other cases, the adults were silent or blaming.
- ◆ In one-third of incidents, at least one adult stood up for a child (even if others were not supportive). These adults included parents and guardians; teachers, counselors, school secretaries, principals and vice principals; district-level administrators; staff people from community agencies; school security guards, police officers, a school bus driver and a referee. Some of their stories offer creative strategies as models for others.
- ◆ In one-third of incidents there were no adult witnesses and the problem was never reported to school employees or adults' responses are unknown. Some of these were never called to adults' attention because students feared their responses. In some cases previous requests for help had been allegedly denied or disparaged.

By category of offense, the one-hundred and eleven incidents counted by the Project included:

- ◆ Eight gang rape incidents in which a total of 11 people were raped. Two of those who were raped were sixth graders. There was the only rape incident that a respondent said had been reported to the police. This respondent did not say whether the offenders were charged or convicted.
- ◆ Twenty-two other physical assaults on a total of 24 people. They were hit, kicked, punched, and/or injured with weapons. Seven were treated by a doctor or a nurse (four in hospitals and emergency rooms) for cuts, contusions, cracked ribs and/or broken bones.
- ◆ Seventeen cases of physical harassment and/or sexual assault, short of rape. These included such things as offenders spitting on someone, throwing something at them, cornering them, pushing them around, pulling their clothes up or off or down, or grabbing or groping them.
- ◆ Thirty-eight cases of on-going verbal and other harassment. In these cases, an offender wrote graffiti about a person, for example, or “outed” them (spread rumors about their sexual orientation), threatened to harm or kill them, or publicly humiliated them on an on-going basis.
- ◆ Twenty-six one-time, climate setting incidents. These entailed things such as name-calling, offensive jokes, etc. In one incident, a first grader was called “faggot” on the playground. Perplexed and embarrassed, he later asked his father what it meant. The father explained it was a derogatory term for gay people. His child wasn’t traumatized by the incident, but the father was troubled enough to call the Safe Schools Project.

The ratio of offenders to the people they targeted was at least 2½ against 1.

What made the offenders think the 148 people they targeted in these 111 incidents were gay or lesbian? From reports, we know that:

- ◆ 38 people had defended the civil rights of sexual minorities or had gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (GLBT) friends.
- ◆ 34 people were openly gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.
- ◆ 31 people were apparently perceived to fit GLBT stereotypes (e.g., girls with short hair, a boy who was soft-spoken and who studied during free time).
- ◆ 23 people were attacked for no apparent reason. Some callers did not say or did not know why the offenders had attacked these particular individuals. Others were not sure the offenders had even believed their targets to be gay; they may have simply been using an anti-gay slur in a teasing or an angry way.
- ◆ 15 people had come out privately (e.g., to a friend or sibling) as a sexual minority and their confidentiality was broken.
- ◆ 5 people were “found out” (e.g., their diary was stolen or their locker broken into).
- ◆ 2 people were attacked as gay because they had HIV.

At least seven of those who were targeted were self-identified as heterosexual.

Twelve children and youth changed schools (in some cases, multiple times) to try to escape the abuse. Ten young people eventually dropped out (including three who had changed schools first).

Ten young people attempted suicide. Two young people *committed* suicide. (One suicide was reported by a young man’s mother and the other, which followed suicide attempts, was reported by a close friend.)

Personal Safety

What percent of our youth always wear car seatbelts?

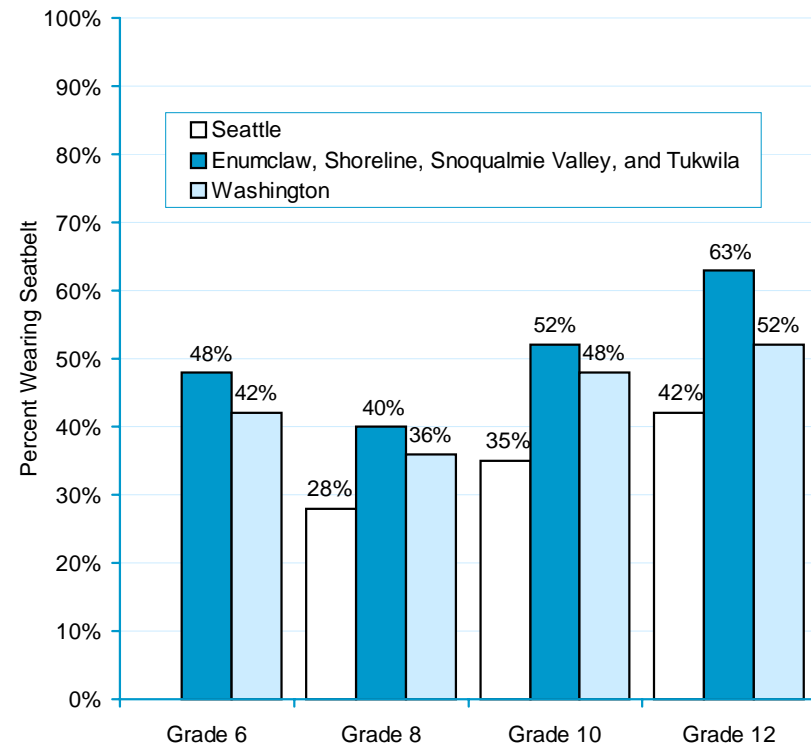
The lowest level of regular seatbelt use is among 8th grade youth, and increases in older age groups. Fewer Seattle youth wear seatbelts “always” than youth in the other King County school districts or in Washington State.

Reports from parents may be different from reports of youth themselves. For instance, in 1997 among parents in households with a child under the age of 16 years, 91% said their children always used a seat belt or a safety seat.

Data Notes: Only four King County school districts outside of Seattle participated in the 1995 survey.

Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior, 1995, the Seattle Public Schools Teen Health Risk Survey, 1995, and the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 1997.

Percent of Public High School Students Who Reported Always Wearing Seatbelt When Riding as Passenger
Seattle, Four King County School Districts and Washington, 1995



Personal Safety

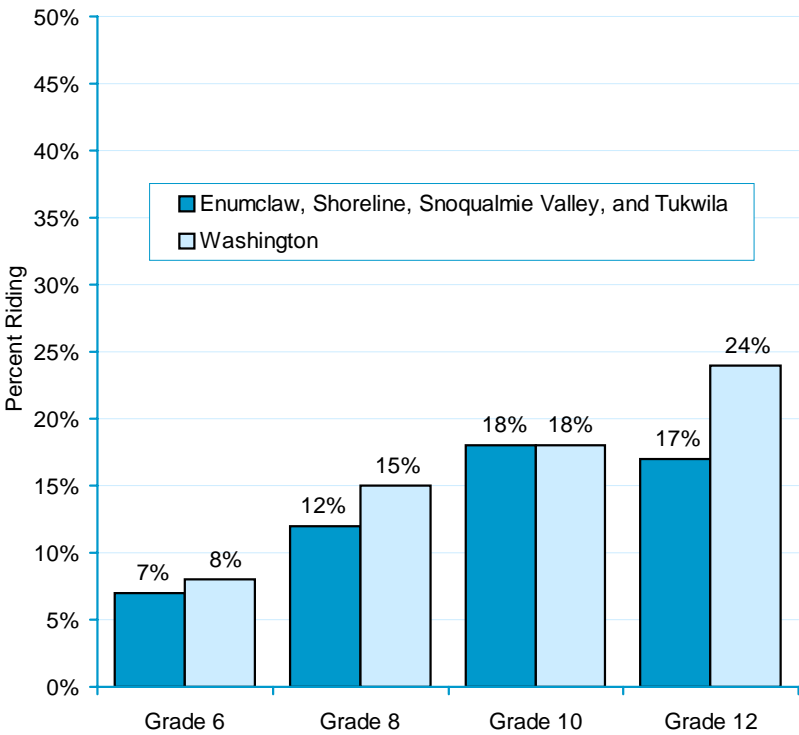
What percent of our youth avoid riding with drivers who have used alcohol or drugs?

Roughly one in ten middle school age youth and one in five high school age youth have recently ridden with a driver who was using alcohol or other drugs. King County percentages were similar to those for the state, except at the 12th grade level.

Data Notes: Only four King County school districts outside of Seattle participated in the 1995 survey.

Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior, 1995, and the Seattle Public Schools Teen Health Risk Survey, 1995.

Percent of Public School Students Who Reported Riding At Least Twice In the Past 30 Days with Drivers Who Had Used Alcohol or Drugs
Four King County School Districts and Washington, 1995



Personal Safety

How many youth regularly wear bicycle helmets when riding?

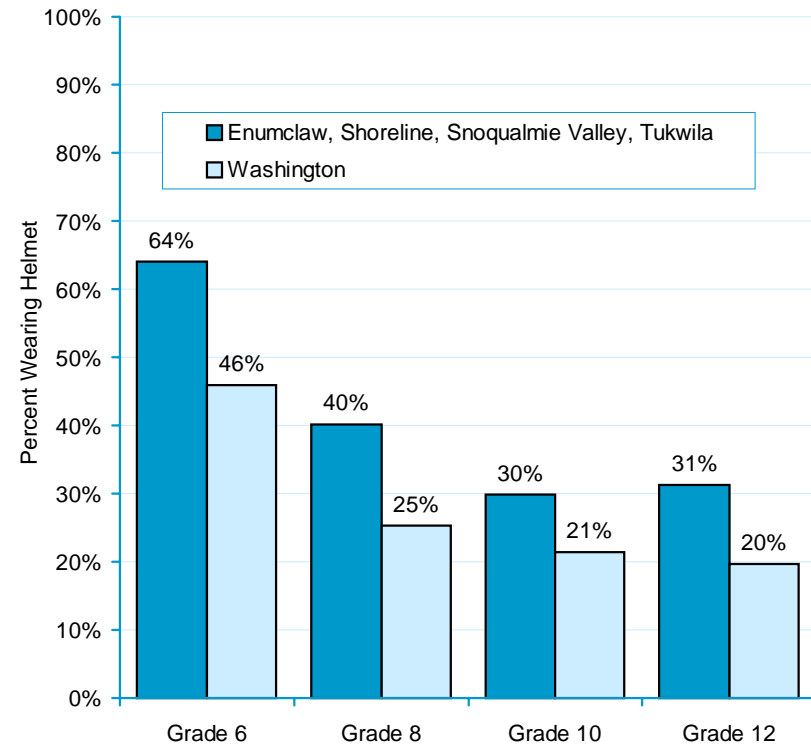
Locally and statewide, 6th graders are more likely than older students to wear a helmet regularly when riding a bicycle. In King County, where use of bicycle helmets is required by law, students in four school districts are consistently more likely to use bicycle helmets than youth statewide.

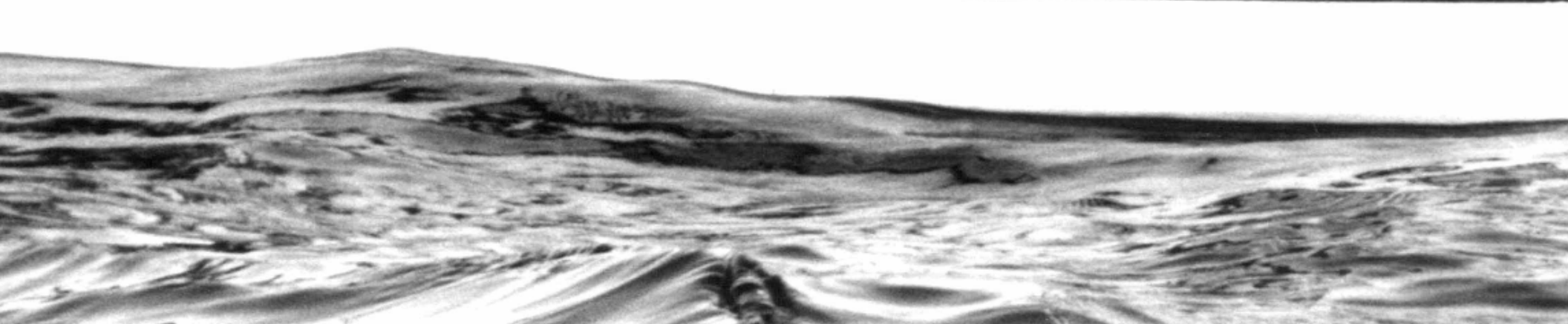
In 1997 among parents whose children rode a bicycle, 84% said their child always or nearly always wore a bicycle helmet.

Data Notes: Only four King County school districts outside of Seattle participated in the 1995 survey.

Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors, 1995, and the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 1997.

Percent of Public School Students Who Reported Wearing a Helmet Most of the Time or Always While Riding a Bicycle, By Grade Four King County School Districts and Washington, 1995





Personal Safety

What percent of our children and youth are using life saving belts or jackets when in boats?

In a 1995 observational study, over 90% of the observed infants and toddlers were equipped with life-saving devices, while only two thirds of older children were observed wearing them. For youth age 14 years and older and adults, the percentage was low at only 16%.

As of 1999, Washington State law requires that children age 12 years and younger wear a flotation device when on deck of boats under 19 feet long.

Data Notes: These data are based on observations of boaters at randomly selected popular boating recreation areas in King County with a high volume of small boat traffic used by families with children.

Percent of Children, Youth and Adults Observed Using Personal Flotation Devices, King County, 1995

Age	Percent Using Device	Number Using Device
Infant (0-3 years)	90.6%	29
Youth (4-13 years)	66.7%	166
Adult (14+ years)	16.1%	164
TOTAL	27.6%	359
Type of Craft		
Motor Boat	16.5%	78
Sailboat	51.5%	17
Rowboat	27.8%	10
Canoe	38.1%	128
Kayak	70.4%	57
Other/Unknown	21.2%	73
TOTAL	27.8%	363

Source: University of Washington Children's Hospital and Medical Center and School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

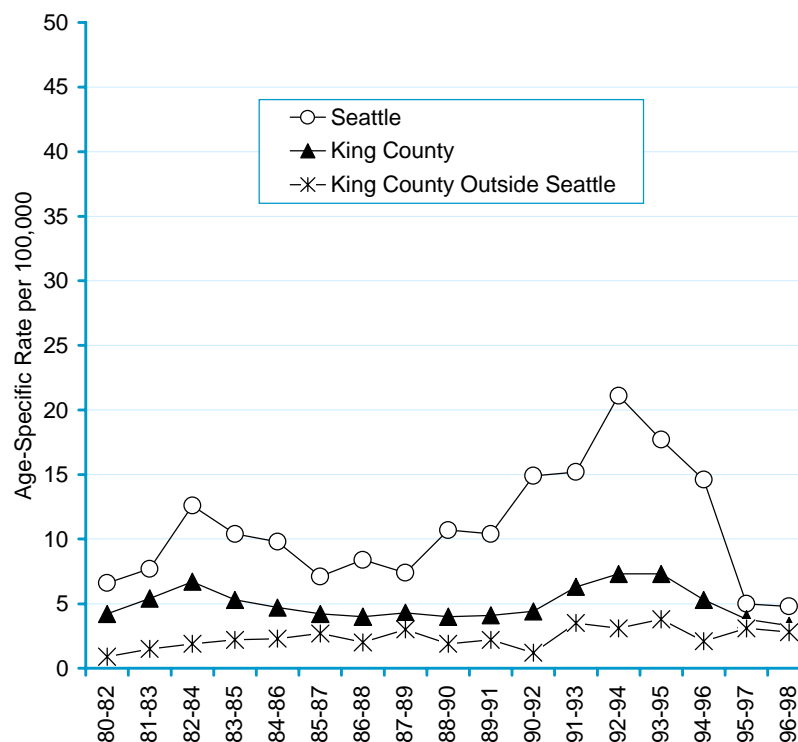
Personal Safety

How many youth are victims of violent crimes?

The number of youth homicide victims in King County peaked at 14 in 1993. Homicide victims age 18 to 24 years reached their highest level at 31 in 1994. These numbers reflect an increasing trend for homicides for youth and young adults as victims, beginning in the early 1980s. The highest rates of homicide were recorded in the 1992-1994 period and subsequently these rates have dropped significantly countywide, particularly in Seattle.

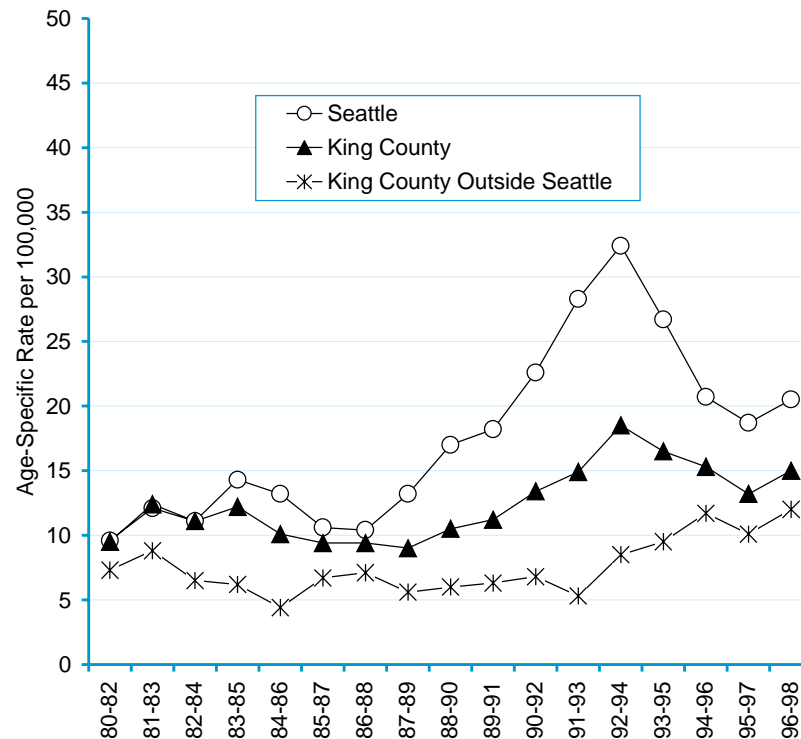
Rates are generally higher among young adults than youth. Compared to parts of King County outside Seattle, the Seattle rates are consistently higher. Although the homicide rate in 18 to 24 year olds increased slightly in 1996-1998, it will be necessary to analyze subsequent years of data when they become available to find out if the overall decline has been interrupted.

Rates of Homicide By Victim Ages 10-17
King County, Three Year Rolling Averages, 1980-1998



Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.

Rates of Homicide By Victim Ages 18-24
King County, Three Year Rolling Averages, 1980-1998



"We're kids of the nineties; the nineties is totally different. You see weirdoes walking the streets ... People didn't carry guns around in public, and knives. They didn't have metal detectors, you know ... You gotta understand there are alcoholics and crazy people that walk downtown. You gotta watch your back, you know, every minute."

(Middle school female quoted in *Supporting Youth*)

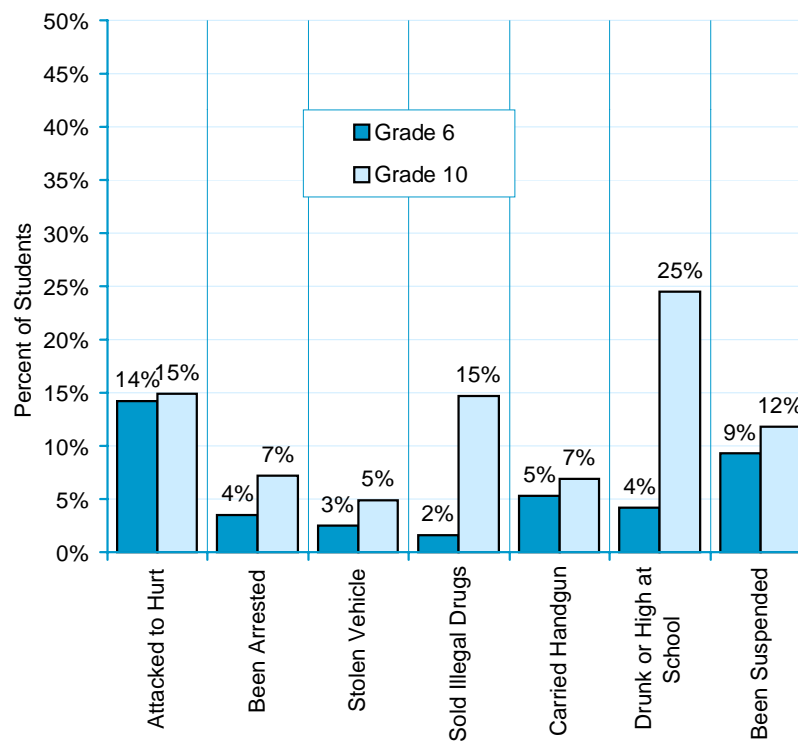
Violence and Crime

What is the overall pattern of self-reported violence or delinquency in King County and Washington State?

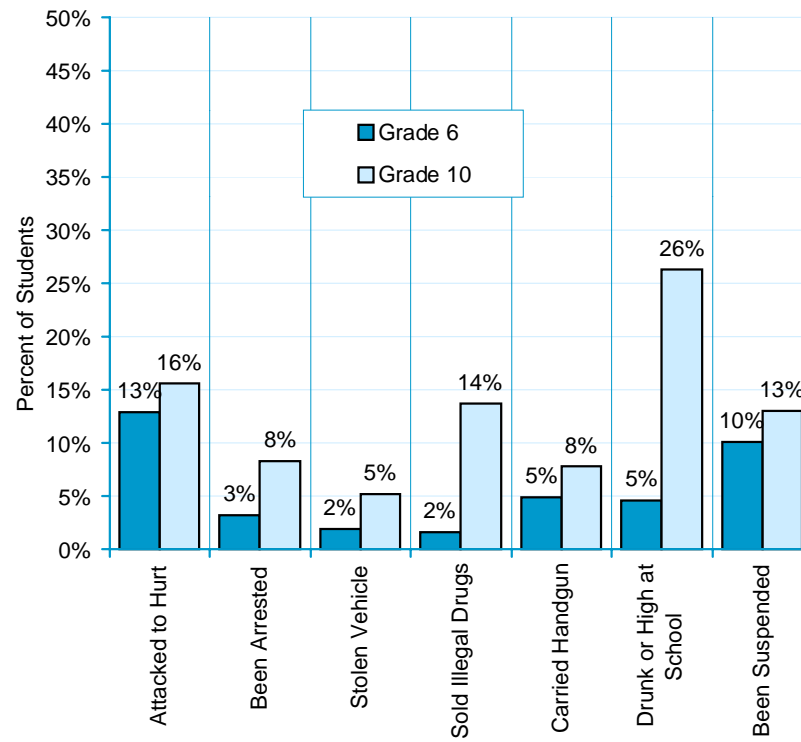
The rates of violent and delinquent behavior reported by King County youth is very close to what is reported by youth statewide. Sixth grade youth are less likely to be involved than older youth, with the exception of one behavior -- physically attacking someone with the idea of seriously hurting them. One out of every six King County 10th grade students intentionally attacked someone, while the same proportion sold illegal drugs during the past 12 months. One out of four 10th graders were drunk or high at school during the past year.

Data Notes: In 1998, the Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior was carried out with a representative sample for Washington State. Many King County schools that were not drawn into the state sample carried out the same survey, resulting in a local King County sample that may or may not be representative of the actual student population. Local results are from 6th, 8th and 10th graders in 68 schools in 11 of King County's 19 school districts, including: Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Lake Washington, Renton, Riverview, Seattle (one middle school), Shoreline, Snoqualmie Valley, Tahoma, and Vashon Island. Approximately 3,400 6th grade, 2,900 8th grade and 2,300 10th grade students participated.

Percent of Students Who Reported Violent or Delinquent Behavior In Last Year, Grade 6 and Grade 10 Select King County Public Schools, 1998



Percent of Public School Students Who Reported
Violent or Delinquent Behavior In Last Year, Grade 6 and Grade 10
Washington, 1998



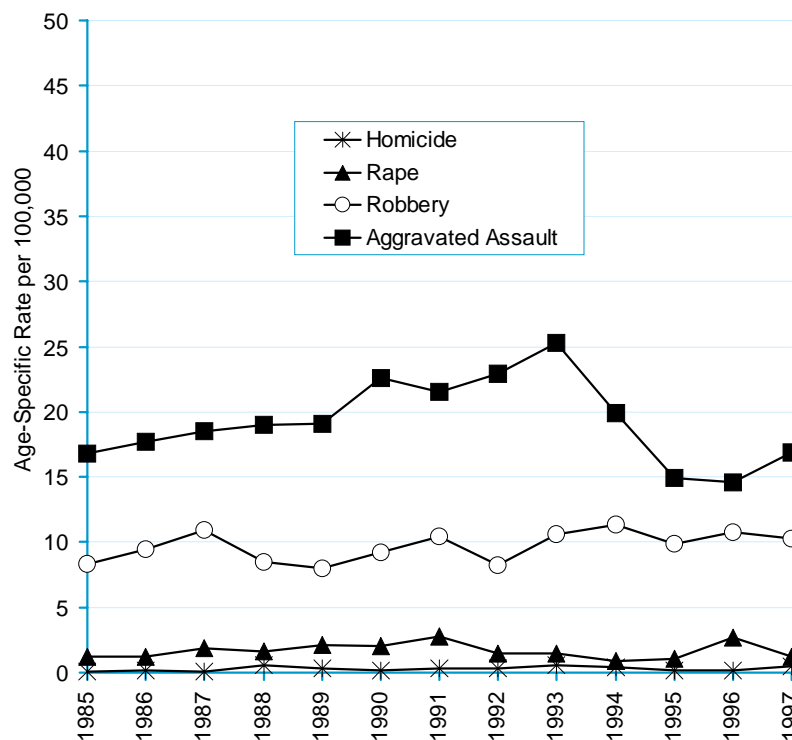
Violence and Crime

How many youth commit violent crimes?

Violent crime involving offenders under the age of 18 increased steadily from 1985 up until the early 1990s. Since 1993 there has been a significant decrease in aggravated assaults. The rates of youth offenders associated with homicide, rape and robbery, however, have leveled with no clear upward or downward trend. In 1997, there were 8 youth offender clearance reports pertaining to homicide, 20 to rapes, 169 to robbery, and 278 to aggravated assault (numbers not shown).

Date Notes: These data are offence clearances from Uniform Crime Reports. These data may not reflect all individuals who perpetrated a particular crime. An offense may be counted as cleared if an arrest has been made or if the perpetrator is known but an arrest is otherwise impossible (e.g., the perpetrator has died before an arrest could be made). A juvenile clearance is counted only when juveniles are exclusively involved in the clearance of an offense. If the arrest of both adults and juveniles result in a clearance, it is counted as an adult clearance. These data do not necessarily reflect the outcome of prosecutions nor do they necessarily reflect all perpetrators of a crime if more than one person was involved. A crime may not be cleared in the same year in which the offense occurred.

Rates of Violence Involving Offenders Under Age 18
King County, 1985-1997



Source: Uniform Crime Reports, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs..

Personal Safety

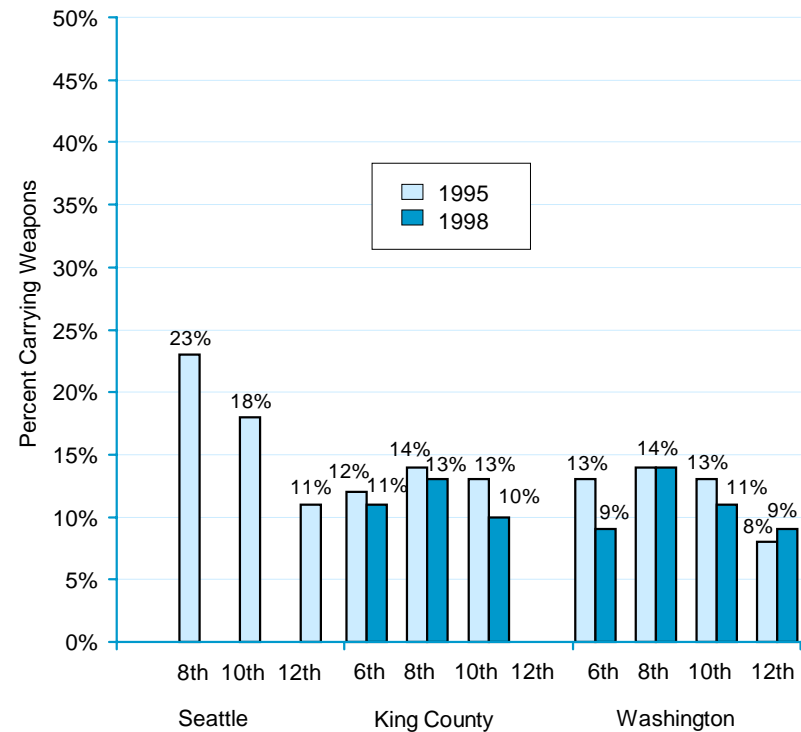
How many of our youth carry weapons?

In 1995 almost one out of every four Seattle 8th graders reported carrying a weapon such as a gun, knife or club in the previous 30 days. Comparing 1995 with 1998, it appears that statewide and in King County schools outside of Seattle, the percentage of students who carry weapons may be on the decrease. Nationally, this percentage has dropped 25% from 1993 to 1997 (data not shown).

Data Notes: The King County schools participating in the 1998 survey were not the same as those participating in 1995.

Source: Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behavior, 1995 and 1998, and the Seattle Public Schools Teen Health Risk Survey, 1995.

Percent of Public School Students Who Reported Carrying Weapons Such as Gun, Knife, or Club in Past 30 Days
Seattle, Select King County Public Schools and Washington, 1995 & 1998



Personal Safety

What percent of households have guns present?

In a 1998 survey, almost one out of five King County households that included youth age 13 to 17 years had a handgun present in or around the home. Almost one out of three had some kind of firearm present.

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, Washington State Department of Health, 1998.

Percent of Households with Firearms Present, by Type and By Presence of Youth Age 13-17, King County, 1998

Type of Firearm	All Households	Youth in Household
Firearms	23%	30%
Firearms Loaded, Unlocked	3%	3%
Handguns	15%	19%